NORTHERN POWERGRID

SAFETY ALERT

AN IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE



Arborist struck whilst felling a tree	
Issued to:	All NPg and Service Providers
Category:	Contractor OSHA – Lost time
Contact:	Health, Safety & Training
Issue Date:	21 August 2026

OVERVIEW

Earlier this week vegetation management activities were being undertaken as part of a planned high-voltage rebuild programme in North Yorkshire. The wider project involved pole and cross-arm replacement at multiple locations, supported by outage-based tree-cutting, access clearance, and ETR132 works.

The vegetation management team was operating under a permit-to-work and were coordinating with on-site supervisors responsible for the work on the overhead lines. Surveying and work specification activities were ongoing throughout the outage period, which formed the first stage of a multi-week programme.

During the works, an arborist was felling trees when a branch caught a branch on an adjacent tree which caused it to snap and fall to the ground. The detached branch struck the arborist on his neck / back. The injured arborist was transported to Hull Royal Infirmary by air ambulance where medical assessment confirmed two fractured vertebrae.

Following notification of the incident, colleagues from the North Yorkshire region and the Safety team attended the site to review site conditions, gather initial information, and provide support to Avove personnel.

Further details to follow once the incident has been fully investigated.